



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Thursday, 11th August 1983

**Published by Authority**


---

*Registered as a Newspaper*


---

FRIDAY, 12TH AUGUST 1983

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
12th August 1983.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the Bar to the George Medal, the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal and for the publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct.

### *Awarded the Bar to the George Medal*

**Peter Edwin Spencer GURNEY, M.B.E., G.M.,**  
Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.

On 26th October 1981 an anonymous telephone call warned that three bombs were due to go off in a busy shopping thoroughfare.

One of the bombs exploded, instantly killing the Explosives Officer who was attempting to defuse it. Mr. Gurney had arrived at the scene shortly afterwards, examined the damage to the premises and seen the badly injured body of his colleague. Almost immediately he was summoned to a large store nearby where another device had been discovered in the toilets. With the knowledge that an explosives expert had already been killed, he went at once to the site where, at very close quarters, he examined the bomb which had been placed on the top of a cistern. Knowing the nature of his dead colleague's injuries and the method he normally employed, Mr. Gurney concluded there was a strong possibility that the charge contained a further initiating system.

There was no doubt that little time remained

before the timing device set off the detonating sequence and, in addition, it was more than likely that the bomb contained an anti-handling device. In the face of all these risks Mr. Gurney successfully neutralised the device approximately fifty-four minutes after it had been placed in position. It was subsequently found that the bomb's mechanism functioned perfectly.

Mr. Gurney displayed outstanding gallantry, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his personal safety when, in the knowledge that his colleague had lost his life shortly before in similar circumstances, he successfully tackled this highly dangerous device.

### *Awarded the George Medal*

**David Beresford BROWNING, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.**

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

**Kenneth Robert HOWORTH (Deceased), Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.**

On 26th October 1981 an anonymous telephone warning was received that three bombs had been placed at various points in a crowded shopping area and would explode within half an hour.

Approximately twenty-five minutes later the police found two suspicious packages in the basement toilets of a restaurant. The building and nearby shops were immediately evacuated, by which time Mr. Howorth, who was the officer tasked to deal with the device, arrived at the scene.

By now, about fifty-four minutes had elapsed between the original telephone call and Mr. Howorth entering the restaurant. From the brief description given by the police officers at the site, it is clear

that Mr. Howorth was aware that the connected packages were probably a time elapsed, fully armed explosive device. Nevertheless, he immediately entered the confined toilet area and three minutes later there was an explosion under the pavement which was lifted about four feet away from the front of the restaurant by the force. Mr. Howorth was killed instantly.

Mr. Howorth displayed outstanding gallantry, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his personal safety when, in circumstances of extreme danger, he attempted to defuse the bomb.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

John Pascoe BARRY, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Clarence BEDFORD (Deceased), Stores Foreman, Hunslet Engine Company, Leeds.

During the late afternoon of 20th March 1982 Mr. Bedford was present at a Turf Accountant's Office in conversation with the Manager and his wife when, without warning, they were confronted by a man who was brandishing a double barrelled sawn-off shotgun. The intruder, who had his finger on the trigger, pointed the gun at the Manager, handed over a carrier bag and demanded the day's takings.

The Manager obeyed, removing cash from the tills into the bag: during this time the armed man became more and more agitated, continually urging the Manager to hurry. The carrier bag was then handed back to the robber who began to retreat backwards. During this time Mr. Bedford had been standing by the counter but then realised that he was witnessing an armed robbery and as the man turned and was about to escape, he faced the gunman, dived at him and caught him by the shoulders. They grappled together for a short while before falling to the floor and during the struggle the intruder fired two shots; one wounding Mr. Bedford in the arm; the second at close range hit him in the chest fatally wounding him and he died almost immediately.

Mr. Bedford displayed a total disregard for his own safety and courage of a high order when he tackled and attempted to restrain this armed and desperate man.

Peter Walter CLEMENCE, Security Guard, Security Express, Balfour Street Depot, London S.E.17.

Malcolm Jonathan HENLEY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

At about 9.40 a.m. on 30th September 1981 the crew of a security vehicle were collecting cash from a bank. The Custodian, Mr. Clemence, had just picked up a bag containing a large amount of money and was walking back to the van when he was confronted by a man who threatened him with a handgun, grabbed the cash bag and ran to the adjacent car park.

Constable Henley who was in plain clothes, off-duty and shopping with his wife, witnessed the incident. Without hesitation, he immediately gave chase and was fired upon by the fleeing raider: fortunately he managed to swerve and the bullets passed through his clothing without injuring him. Undeterred the Constable continued the pursuit closely followed by Mr. Clemence. The gunman

turned and fired two further shots, one of which hit Mr. Clemence in the lower chest, but despite his serious injury he managed to keep up with the chase. The robber made towards the car driven by his accomplice but before he could get into it he was grabbed from behind by Constable Henley and pulled away. The gunman, still grasping his weapon, was brought down and disarmed by Constable Henley aided by Mr. Clemence. During the ensuing melee the criminals' car, a stolen vehicle, was twice driven at the crowd by the accomplice in an attempt to get the gunman away from his captors. With the assistance of other members of the public at the scene this man was also restrained and both criminals were arrested by Constable Henley.

Both Mr. Clemence and Constable Henley, at grave personal risk, displayed gallantry of a high order in effecting the capture and arrest of these two violent and desperate men: but for their refusal to be intimidated, there is little doubt that these criminals would have made good their escape.

Patrick Michael DOHERTY, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland

Leslie Thomas GILES, Security Guard, Securicor Ltd., Nine Elms Depot, London S.W.8.

On 15th February 1982 Mr. Giles was on duty as a member of the crew of an armoured security vehicle making a cash delivery to a bank.

After completing the usual safety and delivery formalities, Mr. Giles escorted the driver, who was carrying cash and cheques. As they crossed the pavement to the bank premises two men confronted them, one of whom rushed at Mr. Giles and, without prior warning, stabbed him in the chest. In spite of a serious injury, Mr. Giles grappled with his assailant bringing him down and pinning him to the ground. At the same time the security van driver was struck and stunned by the second man who was armed with an automatic pistol. The gunman then turned and, while simultaneously operating the breach loading mechanism, pointed his weapon at Mr. Giles ordering him to release the accomplice.

As Mr. Giles obeyed the gunman he noticed a firearm magazine on the ground and, with considerable presence of mind quickly seized and threw it inside the security vehicle. He then saw the man he had overpowered trying to gain his feet and crawl away: although the gunman was still nearby he again jumped on his former captive and, with the assistance of police officers who were at the bank and witnessed the attack, managed to restrain the violently struggling man.

Without thought for his own safety, Mr. Giles displayed outstanding courage, persistence and devotion to duty when, although badly wounded and confronted by a firearm and knife he brought about the arrest at the scene of one dangerous and violent man and of the other who had decamped but was captured shortly afterwards without a struggle still in possession of the firearm and the proceeds of the robbery.

George Roland LAIRD, Detective Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Alison, Mrs. PEARSON, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Geoffrey YATES, Leading Fireman, South Yorkshire County Fire Service.

On 23rd February, 1983, a serious fire broke out in a top floor flat of a seven-storey block. The occupant, who was trapped by the severity of the fire, had climbed partially through the window in order to escape from the flames, heat and smoke.

Leading Fireman Yates was a member of one of the crews who responded to the emergency call. On the arrival of the Fire Service it was found that, due to the situation of the flat, neither the turntable ladder nor the hydraulic platform could be put into use. It was impossible to reach the occupant by entering the flat, so Leading Fireman Yates and a colleague forced an entry into an adjoining empty flat in order to reassure the trapped woman who was astride the safety rail and clinging to the window frame. She had her back to the two firemen and was severely affected by the heat and smoke of the fire.

Whilst continually calling to the woman to stay where she was, Leading Fireman Yates took up a similar position astride the safety bar of the window of the next door flat. When it became clear that she could not be rescued by ladder in time Leading Fireman Yates' colleague grasped his right wrist and counterbalanced his weight while the officer endeavoured to reach the girl by leaning across towards her: the distance, however, was too great. Realising the conditions in the burning flat were rapidly worsening, he shouted to the girl to throw her arm in his direction but, as she attempted to obey him, a violent explosion blew out the windows and the girl who was off balance catapulted from her precarious perch. Miraculously, before she could fall to the ground 60 feet below, Leading Fireman Yates managed to seize her left wrist in his left hand and for a few seconds she hung suspended until he was able to raise her sufficiently for his colleague to lean over and grasp her clothing. They then pulled her safely back into the building.

In effecting this daring rescue in an extremely dangerous situation and without regard for his own perilous position, Leading Fireman Yates displayed devotion to duty and gallantry of a very high order.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

Alexander BENNETT, Sergeant, Lothian and Borders Police.

For services leading to the detention of a violent man who was armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

Roger CALLOW, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Raymond DAVENPORT (Deceased), Constable, Merseyside Police.

For services in attempting to arrest the driver of a stolen car.

Neil FOREMAN, Constable, City of London Police.

Peter Robert JONES, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in the pursuit of two armed criminals following a bank robbery.

David Hugh FOSTER, London S.E.14.

For services in overpowering and detaining a dangerous and violent man armed with a meat cleaver who had attacked and raped a young woman.

John Dixon GRAY, Sergeant, Northumbria Police.

For services in tackling and restraining an armed criminal.

Kenneth KEATLEY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

William MONTGOMERY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Miss Carolyn Faith RANDALL, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Alexander LOVE, Constable, Strathclyde Police.

David MacKay McLAREN, Sergeant, Strathclyde Police.

For services in pursuing and arresting an armed man who was a member of a gang who had earlier robbed a Post Office van delivering cash to a Sub-Post Office.

Nicholas William OATWAY, Director, Oatway Brothers Coach Builders Ltd., London N.W.10.

For services in preventing three armed robbers from succeeding with an attempted wage snatch.

David OLDS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in attempting to detain a violent man who, armed with a knife, attacked and stabbed another police officer in an effort to evade arrest.

James Brian PORTER (Deceased), Constable, Durham Constabulary.

William SIMPSON, Constable, Durham Constabulary.

Brian Thomas STEWART, Constable, Durham Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of two members of an armed gang who, at gunpoint, had just carried out a robbery at the wages office of a factory.

Charles Edward RIORDAN, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Richard Michael SIMISTER, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed raider who had attacked a security guard during an attempted robbery.

Keith Thomas SUMMERFIELD, Fireman, South Yorkshire County Fire Service.

For services leading to the rescue of a young woman trapped by a serious fire in a high rise flat.

Clifford Andrew WANNELL, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For tackling and disarming a criminal who threatened him with a sawn-off shotgun following an armed robbery.

LONDON

Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1983  
Price £1.35 net

ISBN 0 11 659446 2  
ISSN 0261 - 8575

PRINTED IN ENGLAND